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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4339  
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 KABUL 004182

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SRAP, SCA/FO, SCA/A, EUR/RPM, INR/B  
STATE PASS USAID FOR ASIA/SCAA  
USFOR-A FOR POLAD

EO 12958 DECL: 12/19/2019  
TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF  
SUBJECT: PERVERSIVE CORRUPTION UNDERMINING GHAZNI PROVINCE'S  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
REF: A. (A) KABUL 4088 B. (B) KABUL 2807

Classified By: Interagency Provincial Affairs Coordinator Scott Kilner for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

1.(C) SUMMARY: In recent weeks Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) leadership engaged Afghan provincial and district government officials  
GOVERNMENT AS CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE?

¶2. (C) In recent weeks the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) engaged extensively with provincial and district-level government officials  
THE GHAZNI ARBAKAI

¶3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX informed us that Governor Usmani and some district governors embezzled funds intended to pay local Afghan "Arbakai" security  
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MISAPPROPRIATING REFUGEE LAND

¶4. (C) According to both XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Afghan government officials appropriated land in 2005 outside Ghazni to create a "returnee village," which  
THE WHEAT HEIST

¶5. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, senior government officials have long corrupted the World Food Program's (WFP) emergency wheat shipments and  
¶6. (C) Former Zanakhan District Governor Mohammed Hassan was arrested attempting to sell a shipment and released on order from the governor. (

CHROMITE SMUGGLING TO PAKISTAN, CONTRACTOR SHAKE-DOWNS, PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

¶7. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Governor Usmani has long been running a chromite smuggling operation into Pakistan from mines in Zanakhan District

¶8. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX informed Task Force representatives that Governor Usmani and RRD Director Mayel extort bribes and kickbacks from local businesses

¶9. (C) Most credible interlocutors also assert that Governor Usmani and his accomplices in GIRoA routinely embezzle government funds and interfere with  
COMMENT

¶10. (C) It is difficult to imagine sustainable gains in security, governance, and development agendas without addressing the pervasive corruption in Ghazni.

¶11. (C) On their own, dismayed provincial law enforcement and judicial institutions are clearly unwilling and incapable of dealing with the situation.

¶12. (C) While public corruption in Ghazni appears pervasive in scope, it lacks significant complexity; much is considered an open secret. Considerations